Bettendorf Police Provide Information on New Iowa Gun Law

The Bettendorf Police Department is offering some recommendations on how to safely handle the new gun law in Iowa that goes into effect on January 1st, 2011.

Bettendorf Police recommend the following:

- Permit holders are **STRONGLY** encouraged to gain proficiency with the weapon they carry (to include shooting accuracy, weapon safety and justification in the use of deadly force).

- Permit holders are **STRONGLY** encouraged to safely conceal their weapon verses carrying it in plain view.

- At the onset of any contact with law enforcement, **IMMEDIATELY** notify the officer(s) that you have a permit to carry and are armed.

- **ALWAYS** carry your permit when armed.

- Prior to traveling across state lines, familiarize yourself with the laws of the state you intend to enter. Iowa recognizes and honors weapon permits from other states, but in many other states there is no such reciprocity.

- Weapon possession/use is prohibited while a person is impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

- Permit holders can possess weapons in motor vehicles but not while riding on an ATV or snowmobile.

- Contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for specific inquiries regarding hunting.

- Private establishments can post signage prohibiting weapons on their premises.

- Permit holders are reminded that according to the state law, there are certain "weapons free zones" pertaining to the real property of a public or private elementary or secondary school or on the real property comprising a public park.

These are just a few recommendations and reminders given by the Bettendorf Police Department for the safety of our officers, valid permit holders, and the general public.

For specific laws pertaining to Iowa Code Chapter 724 (Weapons), please visit: www.legis.state.ia.us